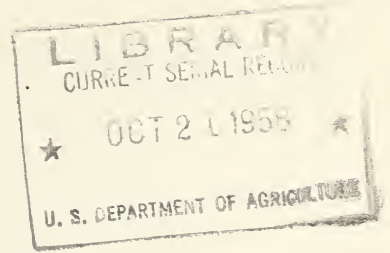


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*Third Annual Report
of the Secretary of Agriculture
on the*

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER

1958

**Committee for
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

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the Interior*

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- - - - -

Harry J. Reed, *Coordinator for Rural Development
Program*

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is the third annual report on the national Rural Development Program which you inaugurated in 1955 following a careful study and on recommendation of the Department.

The report indicates continuing progress and growing interest in the program throughout the Nation.

These aspects of the report are of special interest:

1. The Rural Development Program is being expanded at the State and local level by farm, business, church, civic, and other leaders, assisted by educational and service agencies.
2. Rural people in the pilot counties and areas have measurably improved their incomes and their communities through the program.
3. Private national organizations representing churches, farm, business, and other interests are directing resources into this work.
4. New government activities authorized by Congress in recent weeks or for which funds were appropriated will considerably strengthen long-range development programs in low-income rural areas. These include increased assistance to small business, education, vocational guidance and training, and job placement.
5. There is continued active teamwork on the program by the Departments of the Interior; Agriculture; Commerce; Labor; Health, Education, and Welfare and the Small Business Administration, with guidance from a member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The tremendous potential of the program, as seen by farm, business and other leaders, is illustrated by what one of the Nation's leading farm magazine editors wrote following the national conference in Memphis in June: "In my estimation this is the best farm program that's been thought up in years... it is a great program for almost any county, or group of counties in America."

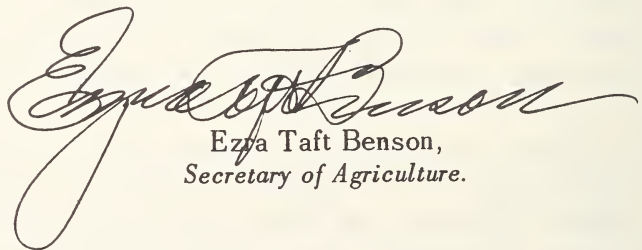
Dr. Arthur F. Burns, former chairman of your Council of Economic Advisers, after watching the formation of the program from its start, said: "I have felt from the beginning that the Rural Development Program is potentially more important than all of our other agricultural programs put together."

I am pleased with the progress of the Rural Development Program.

The success of the program, nation-wide interest and active participation of rural people clearly indicates the soundness of this new approach to the age-old problem of chronic underemployment on many of the Nation's farms. National programs promoting new industrial facilities, job training, and combinations of farming and off-farm work now find widespread acceptance. They are recognized as necessary, often essential, to the prosperity of many of the Nation's rural areas and millions of our rural people.

This third annual report is transmitted on behalf of the Committee for Rural Development Program, participating agencies and private organizations, and the several thousand private citizens who are members of State and local program committees.

Respectfully yours,

A large, elegant handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Ezra Taft Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ezra Taft Benson,
Secretary of Agriculture.

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THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, JULY 1957 - JUNE 1958

After only about two years of operation in rural counties and trade areas, the Rural Development Program has had two significant results:

- Farm, business, civic and other leaders are enthusiastically supporting the work by contributing leadership and financial resources.
- The program has improved opportunities, both on and off the farm, for rural people.

Through research, education, and community action at the county and trade area level, the Rural Development Program is helping people help themselves. It has stimulated more job opportunities, better farming methods, young people's educational and guidance programs, and home and community betterment.¹

The program has brought town and country people closer together in the pilot areas. And together they are working out solutions to their common problems.

The objective is to help people in rural counties make the best use of the resources they have. The eventual success of the program will be measured not so much in the results now being achieved in pilot counties, but in the extent to which the pilot area results cause other areas to initiate similar programs, utilizing the experience gained in the pilot program.

Widening Areas of Work

On August 31, 1958, a total of 63 pilot or demonstration counties and 9 areas (two or more counties each) in 30 States and Puerto Rico were participating. This makes a total of 102 rural counties in the United States directly involved, at present.

¹Supplement I describes more than 200 specific projects which have resulted in better living for rural people in the pilot counties.

However, since our last report in September 1957, local committees, private organizations, and Federal and State agencies contributing to the program have sought to widen its impact and influence far beyond the pilot areas. This was accomplished in several important ways:

(1) Plans to expand the program in certain States were a significant development last year. In five States -- Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Indiana -- the program is now being expanded to include entire areas, utilizing the Rural Development approach, and in Texas present area work is being broadened. Oklahoma State University also issued preliminary studies recommending an area development program covering a group of eastern rural counties.

Counties presently taking part in the Rural Development Program in these seven States continue to serve as demonstration projects where the work is going forward on an intensive basis.²

As previously reported, West Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois, and Puerto Rico inaugurated area programs in 1956 and 1957.

(2) State and Federal agencies represented on State Rural Development committees and responsible for broad service programs in the fields of job placement, area and community development, rural health and education, conservation and forestry increased their contribution to the program in the last 12 months. They have a vital interest in the research and project phases of the Rural Development Program and cooperative arrangements established between local private citizens and agency workers.³

(3) Responsibilities and assignments in the Rural Development Program are now a part of the regular activities of Department of Agriculture agencies. Commenting on this before the Senate Subcommittee on Agricultural Appropriations, March 31, 1958, we stated:

"The Rural Development Program is not separate from our regular activities for improving living standards in underdeveloped rural areas. Nor is it limited in scope and objectives to specific areas. This program is one method, among many, of supplement-

²The map on page 23 indicates pilot counties and areas in the Rural Development Program and general areas proposed for similar work.

³Supplements I and II describe some of the projects in which State non-farm agencies are active.

ing and redirecting the work of government agencies in order to gain more effectively the fundamental objective -- area economic development."

The program is supported principally through a redirection and strengthening of services already in the field, with emphasis on new methods and approaches. For example, in 1957-58, the Department of Agriculture again made special allocations to State extension services for assistance to local committees directing Rural Development work.⁴ The Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, State and Federal Forest Services, State and county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees, research agencies of the Department of Agriculture, and others have directed resources into State programs.⁵

(4) Finally, in 1957-58 national private organizations showed a growing interest in the objectives and progress of the program.

In June, prominent representatives of more than 100 private organizations met in Memphis, Tennessee with officials of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities and government representatives to discuss the program. Among the outstanding national and international leaders who spoke before the conference were B. R. Sen, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Representative Brooks Hays, President, Southern Baptist Convention; Charles B. Shuman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation; Charles N. Shepardson, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; William A. McDonnell, President, U. S. Chamber of Commerce; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Luigi G. Ligutti, Executive Director, National Catholic Rural Life Conference; Dr. Richard O. Comfort, Executive Director, Department of Town and Country Churches, National Council of the Churches of Christ; Dr. David D. Henry, President, University of Illinois.

Out of this meeting came a clearer understanding on the part of private organizations and their membership regarding the need for balanced farm, industry, and community development in low-income rural areas, and their place in the program.

⁴Such assistance is detailed in Supplement I to this report.

⁵Supplement II

Already, we are seeing the first fruits of this interest and understanding. A national church group assigned personnel to the Rural Development Program. Several trade associations and firms issued brochures at their own expense, encouraging their membership to become active in county and area projects. In forthcoming months, participation of these national organizations, with their vast resources and skills, should materially assist in the program.

Expansion into multi-county areas in some States; integrating the Rural Development Program with existing programs of the Department of Agriculture; increased participation by State agencies; a larger contribution from private national organizations -- these important developments since our last report are widening the impact of the program far beyond the original pilot counties and areas.

This is according to plan. The principle, long established in farming areas, of demonstrations influencing people to adopt new practices and new products, is equally valid in the field of economic development. Successful programs promoting opportunities in an area will soon be picked up and applied elsewhere.

Increased Job Opportunities

Employment opportunities in pilot counties are being expanded principally through assistance in establishing new manufacturing or marketing facilities or expanding existing facilities; training programs to improve skills of rural people; and employment guidance.

Approximately 1800 additional jobs in rural industries and new agricultural and marketing enterprises assisted by the Rural Development Program are reported in a representative group of 24 pilot counties. This is in addition to industrial and market enterprises reported previously, and other activities and results flowing from the Program.

Participants in the program -- local committees and agency workers -- helped assemble manpower and other resource information for prospective manufacturers, interviewed job applicants, publicized industry sites and other area resources, and encouraged increased farm production where needed to supply new processing facilities.

Capital funds required for purchase of sites, construction, or other purposes are often raised locally through such methods as subscription or sale of stock initiated by community leadership or investment by individuals. ⁶

The Information Factor in Rural Development

A primary aim of the Rural Development Program is wide dissemination of information which will provide a better understanding of the situation and the need for action.

Among some national groups, there is considerable misunderstanding or lack of information regarding the needs of the 56 percent of American farm families that produce less than 10 percent of marketed farm products.

Among agencies and private organizations with a desire to help, information is needed regarding how to apply sound programs of technical assistance and other service which will meet the real needs of underemployed people in rural areas.

At the local level -- in counties and areas -- leaders desire a better understanding of the economic position of their communities, and more knowledge as to how to proceed.

The task of informing all concerned in the Rural Development Program is a formidable one. We are constantly reviewing and re-directing this important phase of the program in order to make it more effective.

As one example, during the past year a series of publications was inaugurated as a cooperative project among Federal departments and agencies which will put useful information in the hands of rural area leaders. The new publications should promote a better understanding of services available and sound, proven approaches to the

⁶Many examples of new industry and other enterprises established in pilot counties are given in Supplement I.

economic development of their areas. The Social Security Administration, Public Health Service, Small Business Administration, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Forest Service, Farmers Home Administration, and Farmer Cooperative Service have already contributed to this new series.⁷

New Activities to Promote Development in Low-Income Rural Areas

Long-range economic development in low-income rural areas, and the Rural Development Program in particular, will be considerably strengthened by a series of significant legislative and administrative actions taken during the past year. We can refer to them only briefly here:

-- Legislation broadening programs of the U. S. Small Business Administration, increasing the agency's leading authority, and especially, providing capital for local groups investing in small businesses.

-- Appropriations to the U. S. Labor Department permitting limited expansion of State employment services in rural areas, such as job placement, testing, and counseling for employment.

-- The National Defense Education Act of 1958, especially in its provisions for guidance, testing, and counseling in both rural and urban schools; and area programs of vocational training for highly skilled technicians.

-- Legislation increasing monthly payments for social security under the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Program, thus adding income on many small, unproductive farms whose operators are old or otherwise incapacitated.

-- Expansion of loans through the Farmers Home Administration to help rural people repair and build farm homes and other buildings. This has already resulted in home improvement in several areas.

⁷Publications in the series are listed on page 50.

-- Increase in the Conservation Reserve average rate of annual payments, thus broadening the usefulness of the program in helping farmers make land use adjustments -- especially in areas where these have been most difficult in the past.

-- Publication in March 1958 of the first in a series of major studies of the nature and extent of the low-income farm problem and characteristics and use of resources in underdeveloped rural areas. The Agricultural Research Service is cooperating with Land-Grant Colleges in 15 States to carry forward this project; reports will be issued covering specific areas in each of these States.

Rural Programs in a Period of Change

It is gratifying to report on these new activities and projects. They will make a practical, much-needed contribution to local Rural Development Programs. More important, they indicate an awareness on the part of legislators and administrators that new programs, new approaches must be developed to meet the needs of rural people in a rapidly changing America. Employment assistance, the strengthening and expansion of rural small business, vocational and job guidance -- these are as important as traditional programs of farm aid.

For our educational and service programs, not only in agriculture but in other fields as well, must be adapted to help rural people take advantage of opportunity in an expanding economy which is rapidly changing the face of both rural and urban America. Too often in the past, many of our programs have either bypassed the small farmer or have not reached effectively those farm families with small and poor acreage, and little of the essential resources of modern farming.

No development in agricultural policy in recent years holds greater long-term importance than the Rural Development Program and accompanying efforts of our departments and agencies to strengthen and redirect educational and service programs to provide practical help and guidance for small farmers and their families, and others living in rural areas.

SUPPLEMENT I

The following summaries of individual State programs are based on reports received from the chairmen of State Rural Development committees. In general, these summaries cover the 12-month period, July 1957 - June 1958, although many activities in the program are continuing, and cannot be identified with a specific period of time. Not included, however, are projects -- particularly in the field of rural industries development -- which were plainly carried to completion in periods covered by earlier reports.

ALABAMA

Chilton County in central Alabama has large timber resources. In 1957 the county Rural Development committee launched a campaign to greatly increase timber handling facilities, thus adding jobs and a new market for farmers owning woodlots. Through the work of the committee and local businessmen, one timber yard has already been renovated and enlarged, its equipment improved. Five workers are now employed all year round in the yard, and some 80 workers have part-time jobs in the surrounding forests supplying this new timber market.

Planning for a Rural Development Program in Alabama got underway early in 1956 with the formation of an interagency State committee. However, work in the State's two pilot counties, Chilton and Fayette, did not start until a year later.

Fact finding regarding basic conditions and needs in the two counties has now been completed under leadership of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, the State Planning Board, and Department of Industry Relations. Information developed in these and other studies is helping program leaders obtain a better picture of the future of farming, industry, and other enterprises in the two counties.

Projects in Rural Development are helping rural people live better on present resources and increase their incomes. Forty-four producers are taking part in a combined poultry production and marketing project in one county. Vegetable production is being expanded in both counties, e.g. in Chilton green tomatoes have become a major crop in the past two years, expanding to 1200 acres of production. Swine sales in the same county increased by 55,000 dollars in one year, helped along by liberalized private bank loans.

In both counties, program leaders are working to promote rural industries, in addition to the timber loading yard referred to above. Planning is going forward to help young people in Chilton County have an opportunity to learn

industrial trades. Fayette County's Rural Development Committee, cooperating with business leaders, has formed "industry promotion teams" to sell local resources to prospective manufacturers.

Other projects and plans of Alabama's program leaders: Improved roadside marketing of farm produce, reforestation, conservation plans on all small farms, a small watershed project.

Alabama Polytechnic Institute, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, is furnishing additional workers for the program, including development agents in the individual counties and specialists on a part-time basis.

Other agencies represented on the State Rural Development committee are contributing technical aid in special plans, such as manpower studies, industrial development, credit use, education adjustments and soil and water conservation.

P. O. Davis, Extension Service Director, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, is present chairman of the program.

ARKANSAS

Concerned over what a local newspaper termed "an alarming number of high school drop outs," members of the Woodruff County Rural Development Committee promoted a county-wide "stay in school campaign" in the closing weeks of the spring term. Newspapers, churches, and civic organizations in the county contributed news space, speakers, and other assistance in the campaign. A poster design contest in the schools helped gain the interest of those most concerned - the children themselves. Committee members have followed up their early efforts, distributing leaflets on careers and educational guidance; placing career information materials in local libraries; assisting in county-wide educational studies.

Five counties, representing different farming areas in the State, are participating in Arkansas' Rural Development Program: Ouachita, Phillips and Van Buren, named to the program in 1956; Madison and Woodruff, in fall 1957. The interagency Arkansas Rural Development Committee has a steering group, which meets on a regular schedule to coordinate the program within the State.

Rural Development in Arkansas is a two-phase program: Inventorying human and natural resources in the counties; working with community groups and individual rural families to bring about improvement in incomes and community living.

Farming communities in each of the program counties have been singled out for special attention, including soil mapping on farms, intensive farm and home advisory work, and counseling about off-farm sources of income. Agents for Rural Development are helping small farm operators in the production and marketing of new commercial crops -- strawberries, okra, green tomatoes, meat-type hogs, broilers. In one "demonstration" community, for example, 100 families have increased their production of tomatoes for sale in nearby commercial markets.

Owners of small woodlots are being encouraged to make better use of this valuable resource. Surveys of forest resources have been made in pilot counties; and a "forestry club" is planned in Ouachita County, 75 percent of which is in forests.

A labor survey in three pilot counties showed that operators of small farms badly needed off-farm employment but wanted to remain living in their home areas. Rural Development committees and agency workers are cooperating with local businessmen to develop rural industries that will lead to more jobs. Brochures advertising natural resources, transportation, and other factors of interest to industry; improvement of handicraft production and marketing; contacts with outside businessmen and credit agencies are some of their projects.

The University of Arkansas, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, is furnishing additional workers for the program, including a State coordinator, development agents in individual counties, and specialists on a part-time basis.

Soil Conservation Service has increased its technical assistance for soil mapping, farm planning, and county-wide conservation.

Many other agencies and private groups in Arkansas are active in the Rural Development Program, including power and light companies, farm organizations, chambers of commerce, news media representatives, and economic development agencies.

Dr. Lippert S. Ellis, Dean of Agriculture, University of Arkansas, is chairman of the program.

FLORIDA

In April 1958 the University of Florida published a "Suwannee County Survey for Rural Development," product of a joint effort of University specialists and program leaders in the county. Questionnaires regarding family

earnings, job skills, farm operations and other factors were prepared at the university and distributed by local organizations in a county-wide project lasting several months. Answers were carefully tabulated and evaluated. The resulting report presents the most complete picture of county resources, living conditions, and long-term needs ever assembled. It is being used by Rural Development Program planners in the county and local businessmen as they move to develop sound programs to balance agriculture with industry.

This State inaugurated a Rural Development Program in January 1957 with the formation of an interagency committee to help coordinate future work. However, the program did not begin in the State's two demonstration counties, Suwannee and Washington, until May 1957, when county-wide surveys of family living, employment and other factors were begun. Early in 1958, extension personnel were assigned to the program, and committees of businessmen, farmers, and other groups began work on the action phase of the program.

Commercial production of formerly home garden crops, such as sweet potatoes, is being promoted through farmers' meetings and individual counseling with small farmers. In one county, commercial poultry flocks are being started on 12 small farms. Egg marketing has improved. In one county, businessmen members of the Rural Development committee, assisted by the Florida Development Commission, promoted expansion of a local factory, which will employ some 300 people.

The University of Florida, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, is furnishing additional workers for the program, including development agents in the pilot counties and specialists on a part-time basis.

The Soil Conservation Service assigned soil surveyors to the program in each county. Other agencies and private groups are also participating. For example, local electric companies surveyed industrial potential in the two counties and published reports on local resources. County governments appropriated funds to pay the expenses of extension personnel for Rural Development.

M. O. Watkins, Florida Extension Service Director, is present chairman of the State's Rural Development Program.

GEORGIA

An important part of the Rural Development Program is educational work among those farm families who, because of age or incapacity, cannot make an adequate living from farming. A good example of this is a project in

Twiggs County. The county Rural Development Committee sponsored a campaign to inform older farmers of the social security program and its benefits. At the start, they made a survey which showed 185 people were eligible for the program. In one month, eight meetings were held in different communities by agency personnel assisting the committee and Old Age and Survivors Insurance representatives, who explained how the social security program worked. An initial group of 20 farm people not previously receiving benefits have now been qualified for the program, thus adding more than 10,000 dollars to their total yearly income.

The interagency Georgia State Rural Development Committee, organized in April 1956, has named four pilot counties to participate in the program: Twiggs (May 1956), Wayne and Meriwether (July 1956) and Habersham (December 1956).

Building upon already existing organizations in the pilot counties, the Rural Development Program has resulted in farm improvement, off-farm job development, and strengthened youth programs.

According to leaders in Wayne County, valuable aspects of the program are "involvement of the community . . . in planning, more individual assistance to farm families, soil conservation activities doubled, youth activities doubled, better coordination among agencies, more leader training."

In agricultural development, some 700 families on small farms in the 4 counties have received help in improving crops and practices and starting new crops; many of these families are taking part for the first time in extension's farm and home program.

As one farm improvement objective of the Rural Development Program, agricultural workers in the four counties are directing an intensive brucellosis eradication campaign.

New markets for farmers' crops have been built through the Rural Development Program. In Meriwether County, for example, program workers and lay leaders helped organize a peach growers' marketing co-op and construct a packing shed. As a result, a far greater volume of peaches is being shipped from the county, and about 170 part-time workers are employed packing the fruit.

Approximately 320,000 acres of farmland in the four counties were mapped by Soil Conservation Service technicians cooperating in the Rural Development Program. Conservation farm plans were prepared on several hundred farms. And to encourage further conservation work on small farms in the pilot counties, the Georgia Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee allocated extra funds for the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Activities among rural youth -- farm youth and others living in the open country -- have been considerably strengthened as a result of the program. The Rural Development committee in one county, for example, promoted special school classes and other assistance for crippled children unable to attend school regularly. Four-H Club work has increased: One county reports that 6 new clubs were organized with some 250 young people participating for the first time. A county-wide recreation program was organized in Twiggs County.

Rural Development committees in the four counties are cooperating closely with industrial development groups, through regular meetings, agency assistance, and joint projects (such as publication of brochures, surveys, etc.)

The University of Georgia, through its College of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service and other departments, assigned three professional workers full-time in each pilot county, as well as specialists on a part-time basis. Soil Conservation Service and Farmers Home Administration have also assigned workers to the program. Other agencies represented on the State committee assist in special projects (labor surveys, industry brochures, etc.) as required.

Dr. C. C. Murray, Dean of Agriculture, is chairman of the program in Georgia.

ILLINOIS

As a result of the Rural Development Program, small farmers in the Pulaski-Alexander two-county area have entered into a vegetable production and marketing plan which should increase incomes and improve farm operations generally. One participating farmer realized 1000 dollars from the sale of green beans last season, the first time he ever produced this crop commercially.

Pulaski and Alexander Counties, in which several agricultural programs are jointly administered, were selected for Rural Development early in 1957. A committee of farm, business and other interests, assisted by an extension agent for Rural Development, directs the program in the two-county area.

Counseling and farm planning among families on small farmers has been stepped up since inauguration of the program. In the past 18 months, 40 farmers developed basic farm plans covering 2700 acres. Vegetable marketing agreements were made with several firms in the area, including a pickle manufacturing company in Chicago. Educational meetings to help small farmers do a better job of production and marketing have a central place in this program, and the development agent, working with the regular extension staff, has held many of these meetings.

One of the principal educational needs in the area, according to findings of the two-county Rural Development committee, is vocational training for both adults and young people. Plans are now under way to modify county educational programs in order to provide more job training.

The University of Illinois, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, is furnishing an area development agent for the two-county area. Other agencies, including the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural and Stabilization Conservation area committee, Farmers Home Administration, and State Employment Security Agency are active in the program.

Southern Illinois University, with a considerable background of experience in community development, has assisted with resource studies. The local Farm Bureau provides office space for Rural Development workers.

W. G. Kammlade, Associate Director of Extension, University of Illinois, is program coordinator in the state.

INDIANA

Perry County's "agricultural task force," directing farm improvement aspects of the county's Resource Development Program, prepared and distributed a quality egg improvement plan for the use of local farmers. The group observes "there are great opportunities for Perry County farmers in the production of high quality commercial eggs." This conclusion was based on a personal study by members of the task force who interviewed farmers, marketing specialists, co-ops, feed dealers and hatchery men. Marketing of Grade-A eggs on a systematic basis is also a part of the new plan, which should mean a definite increase in income on Perry County farms.

The Rural Development Program in Indiana was launched in January 1956 with formation of a broadly based interagency committee, and late the same year organizational work began in the State's demonstration county of Perry.

Indiana is now moving toward an area based program, however. The organizational framework for a program has been set up in Harrison and Crawford Counties, in the south central farming area where Perry County is located. As the Rural Development Program is broadened in the State, certain projects will be carried out on an area basis, according to present plans.

In 1957-58, of course, most of the activity was centered in Perry County. With the cooperation of the Indiana Board of Health, a county-wide health study was completed and results tabulated and announced to the public. Every family in the county will receive a follow-up report on what they can do to improve health and sanitation.

In the field of agricultural improvement, besides the egg production and marketing effort cited, a feeder calf auction was established; several farm plans were redrawn to include production of small fruits and vegetables, thus utilizing labor more efficiently; and extension of credit, mainly through the Farmers Home Administration, brought about improvement on many farms. Soil Conservation Service assigned additional workers for soil surveys and conservation planning, and about 4200 acres have been mapped due to the Rural Development Program.

The industry subcommittee of the Perry County development group activated a sound, long-range plan to bring more jobs to the county. Cooperation is much improved among chambers of commerce in the three local towns. Promotional activity, industry contacts, etc. resulted in one major new industry and several new prospects.

Through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue University is furnishing an agent for the program and specialists on a part-time basis.

Many other agencies and private groups are cooperating. Chambers of commerce, local hatcheries, feed stores and banks have contributed counsel, facilities and funds for incidental expenses.

L. E. Hoffmann, Director of Extension, Purdue University, is present chairman of the program in Indiana.

KENTUCKY

Private citizens -- farmers, businessmen, ministers, housewives -- helping direct the Rural Development Program in Kentucky's three demonstration areas met in February at the University of Kentucky for a three-day "local leader training course." Seventy-five people were present from 20 counties in the State. In workshops, conferences and just plain "talk" sessions, they discussed future progress in Kentucky's rural areas. Specialists of 21 agencies working in the State met with the participants to help them obtain a better understanding of what could be done to improve living in Kentucky's rural areas. A private foundation paid the travel expenses of many participants, permitting them to attend the training course.

Kentucky has more counties participating in Rural Development than any other State, 25 grouped into three trade area programs: Ashland in the north-east and Bowling Green and Glasgow in the south central part of the State. In addition, there are three demonstration counties, Elliott, Metcalfe and Butler. Local programs started in Kentucky late in 1956, following organization

of an interagency State committee. A staff group including representatives of the Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Vocational Education and Department of Economic Development coordinates State-wide direction of the program.

The Kentucky Rural Development Committee reports many outstanding projects resulting from the program. Perhaps the most outstanding result, however, in the words of a committee report, is that the program "gives the people renewed hope that the future holds opportunity . . . it has broadened the horizons of the people."

Some outstanding projects in Kentucky's pilot areas:

The dairy industry has been improved in one county, with a newly formed artificial breeding association, the first dairy cattle show in the county, and purchase by farmers of some 60 head of cattle.

Kentucky's Vocational Education Department, which has assigned 8 instructors to the Rural Development Program, conducted some 50 classes with more than 1000 farm people attending. Instruction covered farm practices, mechanics, nutrition, and home management. Mobile units were also used to help people in isolated counties obtain training in plumbing, electric wiring and distributive trades.

A total of 33,553 acres were mapped by SCS technicians as a result of the program; much of this for community groups, thus increasing the effectiveness of personnel doing the work.

In seven participating counties, businessmen and others have acquired sites for development as industrial parks, and the Glasgow County "Rural Development Foundation" hired a full-time industry agent.

Other projects and plans in the Kentucky Rural Development Program: Poultry raising for commercial markets (15 new flocks of 1000 birds each were established in one area last year); increasing production of sheep; reforestation; small watershed promotion; vocational guidance counseling among rural youth; health facilities improvement.

The University of Kentucky, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, is furnishing additional workers for the program, including a State-wide coordinator, 3 area agents, 3 county development agents, and specialists on a part-time basis. Soil Conservation Service has placed full-time conservationists in the three pilot counties; other agencies, such as the Department of Vocational Education (see above), and private groups are making a special contribution. Agricultural Marketing Service in

cooperation with the University of Kentucky completed a study in the pilot counties on the high school education of young people and why many drop out before graduation. Two rural electric co-ops supplied instructors in vocational trades, and paid incidental expenses of local programs. A local Farm Bureau provided low-interest credit for a sheep project; the Keeneland Foundation contributed several thousand dollars to the State's program.

Pilot Rural Development areas in Kentucky should also make a major contribution to the work of a newly formed Eastern Kentucky Regional Planning Commission, which has been organized "to coordinate and stimulate all planning and action" concerned with the Appalachian Mountain section of the State.

Dr. Ernest J. Nesius, Associate Director of Extension, University of Kentucky is present chairman of the Rural Development Program.

LOUISIANA

As a result of educational work of the Franklin Parish Rural Development Committee and the extension agent assisting the committee, about 3000 acres of grain sorghums were produced during 1957-58. Program leaders used newspaper, radio and other publicity to promote the crop; extension workers met with farmers individually and in group meetings. The prospect of increased grain production influenced a local businessman to build an elevator, which in its first year of operation furnished a market for 95,000 bushels of grain and soybeans grown on 200 small farms. Receipts of farmers were well over 180,000 dollars.

Louisiana's Rural Development Program was organized in July 1956, when an interagency committee was set up to coordinate this work. Programs in the three demonstration parishes -- Avoyelles, Franklin and Washington -- were started early in 1957.

Community leaders and extension agents assigned to the program in each parish are aiming for these objectives: Increased output of commercial vegetables, dairy products, and livestock to offset declining cotton production; community programs of better farming and home making; rural industries expansion.

In Franklin Parish, for example, about 100 families planted 200 acres of commercial sweetpotatoes for the first time. By pooling orders and sharing transportation, they saved about 1200 dollars in marketing. A sheep growers' association, pasture improvement and irrigation projects on small farms, and a tomato packing shed are other projects in the parish, whose leaders are urging

both farm and market improvement. Four communities of about 200 farm families each in Avoyelles Parish entered the State-wide community improvement contest last year through the encouragement and guidance of Rural Development agents in the parish.

In all three parishes, where hundreds of farm people are seeking part-time work, rural industry development is a priority objective. With the aid of the State Department of Public Works, Washington Parish has completed a resource survey, and will soon issue an industries brochure. Construction of homes for retired people, development of brick manufacturing, and wood post-treating plants are other projects being assisted by Rural Development workers and program leaders.

Louisiana State University, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, is furnishing personnel for the program, including a State coordinator, two development agents in each of the parishes, and specialists on a part-time basis. Other agencies, including Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Vocational Agriculture, and the Employment Security Department, are assisting in parish surveys and other projects.

Dr. J. N. Efferson, Dean of Agriculture, Louisiana State University, is chairman of the program.

MAINE

Living and working in an area that is heavily forested, Rural Development leaders in Washington County, Maine, are emphasizing timber finishing and wood products manufacture as a source of new jobs for underemployed farm people. Officials of companies that utilize large quantities of wood have met with members of the development committee, and State Departments of Economic Development and Forestry, and the Small Business Administration are advising on long-range development of a sounder forest industry. Plans are also under way to increase local job skills through special vocational training courses.

Organization of a Rural Development committee took place in Washington County, Maine's only demonstration county, early in 1956. An interagency State advisory group was also formed about this time.

In addition to plans to expand and improve forest management, marketing and industrial utilization, the Washington Rural Development Committee has taken the lead in publicizing results of a manpower study completed in 1957, studying the need for changes in school curricula, and assisting extension agents in farm improvement. More sheep flocks on Washington County farms,

marketing of lambs and wool through county pools on a graded basis, and greater interest in on-farm conservation practices are early results.

Through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, the University of Maine has assigned a development agent in the county and specialists on a part-time basis. Other State and Federal agencies have assisted in the program.

George E. Lord, Director of Extension, University of Maine, is general chairman of the program.

MARYLAND

A group of farm women in Garrett County are completing their second year of successfully operating a "farm and home market" selling handicrafts, preserves, and farm produce to summer visitors and tourists. Two separate markets have now been established with the help of development program leadership in the county. They provide local farmers and housewives with an outlet for their products and also increased income, as high as 40 dollars a week during the late summer for some sellers.

An interagency State committee, with members from farm and non-farm agencies contributing to area development, met for the first time late in 1955 at which time Garrett County was selected as a pilot county. Program organization in the county did not get under way until much later, however.

The program in Maryland has encouraged farm leaders in the county to determine long-range economic and social trends and draw up plans for needed improvements. These include production and marketing of dairy and forest products, more off-farm jobs, handicraft production, improved educational facilities.

There has also been interest in program development in the southern area of the State. Preliminary studies, including a "labor utilization and availability survey", were completed in one county in the Chesapeake Bay area through the resources of Maryland University.

Dr. Gordon M. Cairns, Dean of Agriculture, University of Maryland, is general chairman of the planning group in Maryland.

MICHIGAN

A major source of income in the Upper Peninsula area of Michigan is tourism and recreation. It's a 137-million-dollar-a-year industry. Resource

development leaders in the area, with expert assistance from Michigan State University's new Upper Peninsula Extension Center, are making sure that a healthy tourist industry continues to grow in importance. Extension agents in Peninsula counties are training to help resort operators provide tourists with the housing and other facilities that will keep them coming back year after year. Resort operators have formed an area-wide organization to improve their services. Rural people, few of whom have full time work on the small farms of the area, have found employment in producing handicrafts marketed through newly established outlets. Youth enrolled in special 4-H Club projects in resort work are able to earn higher incomes in the tourist trades. All of this makes up an intensive area-wide program to increase incomes among rural people in the huge resort area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Michigan's Rural Development Program is unique in both area covered and organization. The entire Upper Peninsula is now participating in what local people call a "Resource Development Program" including fifteen counties,* of which three, Alger, Delta, and Mackinac are considered pilot counties. The program started early in 1957 when Michigan State University set up an extension center in Marquette to coordinate all services of the University in the Upper Peninsula and to help local farm, business, civic, and other leaders improve the economy of the area.

Principal features of the Upper Peninsula Resources Development Program:

- Research on problems of economic growth in the area.
- Increased production of commercial vegetables, cattle, sheep, and poultry, tied in with considerably improved marketing. For example, the development committee in one Upper Peninsula county helped establish a potato flake processing plant utilizing potatoes grown locally.
- Since 88 percent of the Upper Peninsula is in forests, timber management and handling has a major place in the program. Extension, forestry, and conservation agencies have established demonstration projects on Federal lands throughout the area, and a "technical assistance forestry management pool" was set up to service the entire area.
- In addition to tourist industry promotion and training, other projects are under way to establish more rural industries, train workers, and provide job placement counseling. One county has set up a rural counseling program using services of the Michigan Employment Service, local industry, and labor groups.

Michigan State University is furnishing additional personnel for the Upper Peninsula Resource Development Program, including staff of the Marquette

*Baraga, Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, Iron, Marquette, Dickinson, Menominee, Delta, Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, Mackinac, Chippewa, Keweenaw.

Center, development agents in three demonstration counties, and specialists on a part-time basis. All agencies working in the area and many private groups, such as the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau, chambers of commerce, farm, business and civic organizations, are contributing to the program.

An interagency State Rural Development committee functions as a coordinating and advisory group. Richard W. Bell, Assistant Director of Extension, Michigan State University, is chairman.

MINNESOTA

Pointing out that "twenty years ago less than half of the gross income on a dairy farm would pay all expenses, today more than 70 percent is needed," the University of Minnesota published a study of agricultural possibilities and limitations to guide Rural Development personnel working with farmers in the northern cutover area of the State. Sixty percent of the farms in the area are operated on a part-time basis. The study discusses amount of labor needed and profitable crops on farms whose operators work in trades and industry.

An interagency Minnesota Rural Development committee was organized in August 1955 to coordinate plans for a program in the northern counties of the State. However, organizational work did not begin in three demonstration counties selected -- Carlton, Itasca and Hubbard -- until early in 1957. Program development in the 13 northeastern counties*is now coordinated by an area extension agent.

Rural Development in the three demonstration counties has brought about an increase in farm and home planning. One hundred and thirty-five families have been assisted through this approach. The Small Business Administration financed several major poultry operations, including a 10,000 bird flock. In each of the program counties, Soil Conservation Service completed a problem area soils map. A great deal of attention has centered on more efficient marketing of vegetables, milk, and low-grade timber from small woodlots.

Rural Development workers and citizen-leaders helping guide the program assisted businessmen in promoting new rural industries. A manufacturing plant employing 100 people started operations in one program county last year. Two other factories in the area are expanding. A 5000 dollar fund was raised in one county to promote industry development. The Rural Development agent in another county helped prepare a brochure on local resources for prospective manufacturers, and representatives of the U. S. Department of Commerce and Small Business Administration counseled with program leaders in all three counties.

*Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Hubbard, Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Itasca, Koochiching, St. Louis, Carlton, Lake, Cook.

Through its Institute of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota is furnishing additional workers for the program, including an area coordinator, development agents in the three demonstration counties, and specialists on a part-time basis. Many other agencies and private organizations in Minnesota are active in the program. In one demonstration county, the governing board appropriated funds for the office expenses of the development agent.

Skuli Rutford, Director of Extension, University of Minnesota is present chairman of the program.

MISSISSIPPI

Rural Development in Mississippi's Covington County has enabled extension agents to work more intensively with more families on problems of health and nutrition. A survey showed that unproductive home gardens, poor planning and home practices led to diet deficiencies among some 360 families in the county. Using home visits and meetings, news articles and general publicity, extension agents, working with local leaders, are teaching diet improvement and the value of well tended gardens as a means of increasing living standards and building better health.

Rural Development in Mississippi, as in many States, is closely integrated with on-going programs of area agricultural and industrial development, which have become so important in this State's long-range economic growth. The Mississippi Agricultural Coordinating Council, made up of representatives of Federal and State agencies, accepted leadership of the Rural Development Program late in 1955. There are four pilot counties, representing different Mississippi farming areas - Covington, Holmes, and Tippah designated in 1955 and Amite, in September 1957.

Projects illustrative of the development program in the four demonstration counties:

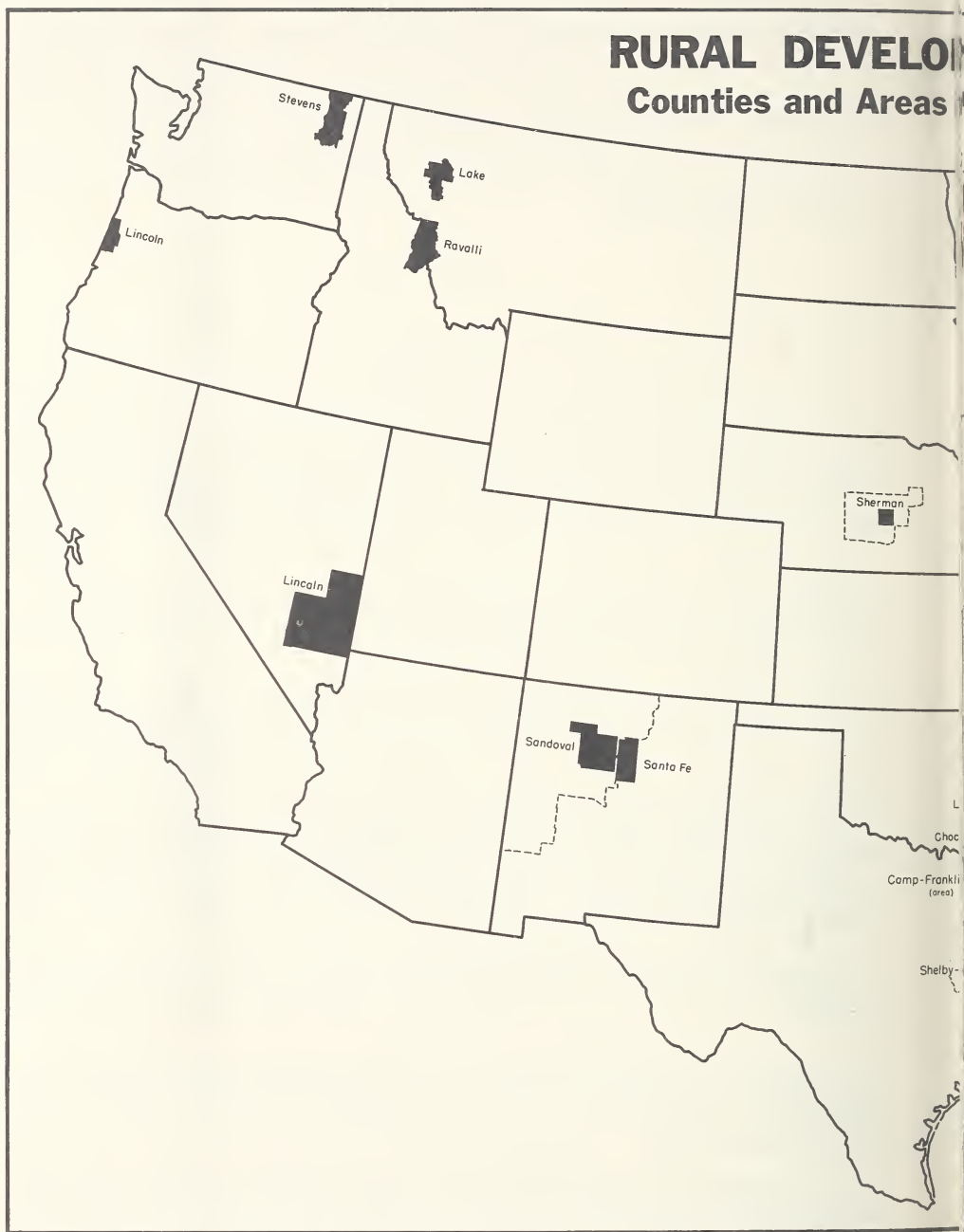
-- Surveys by extension staffs and county Rural Development lay leaders to determine the number of rural people wanting off-farm jobs and qualified for such jobs.

-- Additional farm families brought into the Mississippi "farm and home" development program.

-- Dairy farming improvement in several of the counties, including Holmes County, where 200 farmers are selling milk commercially for the first time.

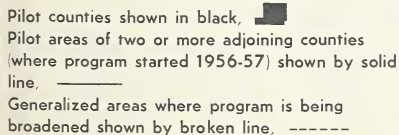
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Counties and Areas



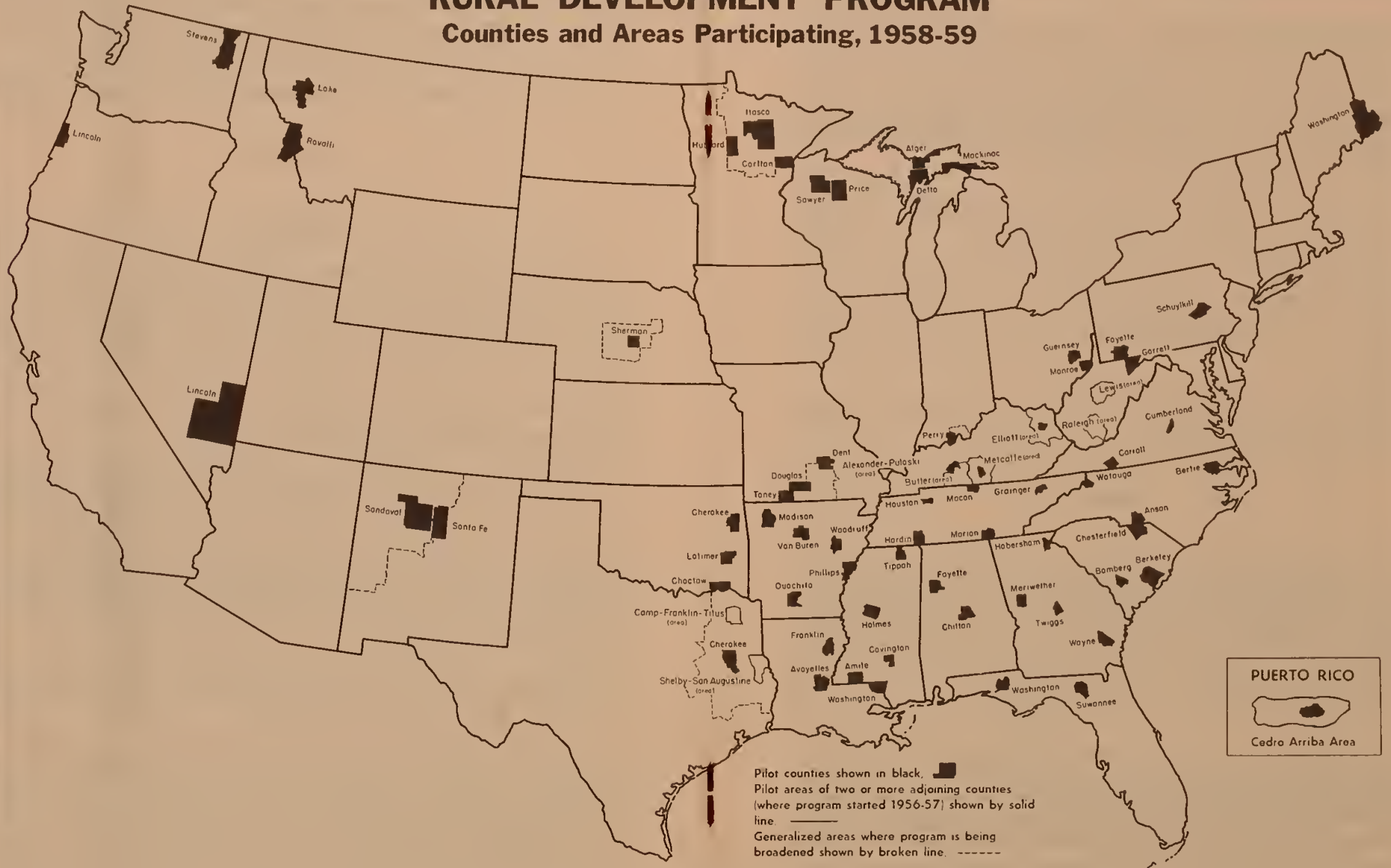
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Participating, 1958-59



RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Counties and Areas Participating, 1958-59



-- Increased vegetable production and better marketing. In Tippah County, 30 small farm operators made their first sale of tomatoes and strawberries through commercial markets.

-- Soil mapping on small farms, conservation planning, and reforestation, with technical aid from conservation and forestry agencies.

-- A stepped up effort to increase the number of off-farm jobs in these counties by promoting and assisting local industry. This includes expansion of small firms, bond issues to finance industrial building, brochures selling local resources, job guidance for rural people.

University of Mississippi, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, is furnishing 15 additional workers for the Rural Development Program in the demonstration counties, as well as specialists on a part-time basis. Other Federal and State agencies and private organizations are cooperating. For example, a power and light company furnished personnel in one county to help complete a resource survey connected with the program. Chambers of commerce in all counties are active in various projects.

J. S. Smith, State Administrator, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, is chairman of the Coordinating Council.

MISSOURI

People in Missouri's Taney County have an opportunity to improve job skills as a result of the Rural Development Program in the county. Soon after its formation, the citizens' group guiding the program organized and sponsored an adult education program in local high schools. The Missouri Department of Education supplied instructors, and local people paid incidental costs of the program. Food handling and management, hand weaving and small business operation were some of the subjects taught. More than 100 people enrolled in the first course held last year.

First meeting of the interagency Missouri Rural Development Committee took place October 1, 1956, at which time three counties, Taney, Dent, and Douglas, in the south central part of Missouri were selected for the program. During 1957-58 initial resource surveying and program organization have gone forward in five additional counties, Ozark, Howell, Oregon, Texas and Shannon. Thus eight counties will eventually compose the State's rural resource development area.

Rural Development Program committees in the three pilot counties, assisted by extension and other agency personnel, have completed individual surveys and reports of health, education, agricultural and industrial conditions.

In addition to locally initiated surveys, the University of Missouri, in cooperation with the Agricultural Research Service, issued a report on a study of resources and incomes of families in the area where demonstration counties are located. It shows, among other things, that 90 percent of the farms are too small for adequate levels of living.

Program leaders in Missouri's Rural Development area have inaugurated a series of projects to meet these specific serious problems: Low production on farms, lack of markets, a high proportion of older people, inadequate job training.

In Taney County, new health facilities for older people are being developed. A county tuberculosis control association has been formed. Health workers have been employed part-time in other counties.

More small farmers are taking part in the State's "balanced farming" program as a result of Rural Development. In one county, the number rose from 40 to nearly 100 farm families. Better livestock production has a central place in the area Rural Development Program. For example, livestock grading demonstrations have increased, with widespread interest in the area. Some 100 families on small farms have enrolled in a course to improve farm records.

Several industries have also recently been established in the development area. These include a charcoal plant which employs 30 people, and a clothing manufacturer employing 100. An interstate handicraft show in Taney County (attended by 690 people from 13 counties), purchase of industrial parks, and job training programs for adults are other important projects in the area to help farm people increase their incomes through off-farm work. Rural Development committees, and agency personnel cooperating with them, are active in all these projects.

University of Missouri, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, furnishes additional workers for the program on a full or part-time basis. Other Federal and State agencies, county governments in the development area, and private organizations are cooperating.

Dr. J. H. Longwell, Dean of Agriculture, University of Missouri is present chairman of the State's Rural Development Program.

MONTANA

The Lake County Development Council, a group of farmers, businessmen, and agency workers organized to direct the Rural Development Program, is spearheading a land reclassification program sponsored by the county government. Through public meetings, newspaper publicity, and personal contact, members of the council explain the reclassification program to landowners in the county, and obtain their assistance and advice. Promotional work such as this, according to county leaders, will make the program much more equitable and gain wider acceptance among landowners. Land reclassification is basic to sound programs of agricultural and industrial development in many areas.

Two counties, Ravalli and Lake, are participating in the Montana Rural Development Program. Planning and organizational work got under way in both counties last year (1957-58). The Montana Rural Development Committee, which includes representatives of Federal and State agencies and private groups, was organized in May 1957.

Principal activity to date in the demonstration counties: Human and physical resource surveys; tree planting on poor agricultural land; control of floods and washing on certain farms; a county-wide weed control campaign on private and government land in Lake County; review of agricultural production and practices; establishment of rural industry promotion groups.

Montana State College, through its School of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, furnishes additional workers in both program counties, and other technical assistance. Other agencies represented on the Montana State Committee are cooperating in program development.

Roy E. Huffman, Dean of Agriculture, Montana State College, is present chairman of the program.

NEBRASKA

Many farms in Sherman County are going through a period of transition from a dry land type of operation to irrigation farming. A local irrigation and power development and individual wells supply water for irrigation farming in the county. To help farmers adopt practices and crops best suited to this new type of farming, the county extension staff has set up two demonstration farms. Their operators receive advice regarding planting rates, fertilizer use, cropping, weed and insect control, and harvesting. Records will be kept and results widely publicized in the county. Parallel educational work among farmers will emphasize the most effective use of irrigation systems--a major agricultural goal in the county Rural Development Program.

In October 1957, the Nebraska Rural Development Committee was formally established, and a development program organized in Sherman County, one of the counties then under study as typical of the "transition area" in the State, between the intensive crop area to the east and rangeland farming to the west. Sherman County is the State's Rural Development pilot county. However, seven additional counties--Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Greely, Howard, Valley, and Boone--also participated in the original study and are now considered in the area-wide resources development program. A committee of private citizens from various counties helps direct the overall area program.

As a result of the Rural Development Program in Nebraska, attention is being focused on the long-range economic needs of the transition area and sound projects to meet these needs.

Irrigation farming, as described above, has a central place in farm improvement. Rural Development leaders have given wide publicity to benefits of the Great Plains program. As a result, several farmers with a total of 6200 acres signed contracts for an average of five years.

The Sherman County Rural Development Committee joined with the chamber of commerce and a local newspaper to carry out a labor and manpower survey. Through the work of the committee, a new meat packing plant started operations last year. It employs seven people and provides a market for farmers in a wide area. Road improvement and county resource promotion among industry groups that might locate in the county are also going forward.

Through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, the University of Nebraska is providing a development agent to assist in the entire transition area, as well as Sherman County. Other agencies represented on the State committee furnish special technical aid when needed, e.g. Soil Conservation Service in conservation planning. Private organizations in the area are taking the leadership in the program.

C. C. Noyes, State Leader of Extension Programs, is present chairman of the Rural Development Program in Nebraska.

NEVADA

In Lincoln County, which has the smallest number of farms of any county participating in Rural Development, opportunities in agriculture are severely limited. From the start, the committee of local people directing a development effort in this county has emphasized industrial development and community improvements to encourage industry and tourism. Early in 1958

members of the committee met with representatives of rural communities and town governments to formulate a plan of locally-directed community betterment. In two small towns, for example, the plan involves street repair and improvement, better sanitation, and water supply systems. State and local agencies with responsibility in this field are furnishing workers and technical advice to accomplish these projects.

After preliminary studies of the economic situation in Lincoln County, the Nevada Rural Development Committee, organized in 1955, selected the county for the program early in 1956. This pilot county has only 135 census farms, but many rural area residents who earn their living in mining and other industry.

Lincoln County's Rural Development Committee and agency workers assigned to the program have set these goals in the long-range economic development of the county: More efficient livestock and dairy production and local marketing, where possible; establishment of a forest products industry based on poorer grade timber which grows locally; industry promotion; growth in tourist and recreation activities; guidance and vocational training programs for young people.

In a relatively short time, the Lincoln County committee has made a start toward each of these goals. Resource surveys in the county were completed last year, including a re-evaluation of local agricultural practices and output. A Farmers' organization is planned to improve livestock marketing. The Bureau of Land Management (U. S. Department of the Interior) which administers large land areas in the county cooperates with the committee in its timber management and marketing projects. A soil survey by Soil Conservation Service of irrigated lands has been accelerated as a result of Rural Development. In addition to community betterment referred to above, the committee and Rural Development agent in Lincoln have prepared an industrial brochure, and met with representatives of many industries that might utilize local resources.

The University of Nevada, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, is furnishing technical assistance for the program, including a full-time development agent and specialists part-time. Soil Conservation Service has assigned a conservationist to the program; the Nevada Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee allocated additional funds for Agricultural Conservation Program practices. Other Federal and State agencies and private organizations, such as the Caliente Chamber of Commerce, are cooperating.

W. G. Stucky, Associate Director, Extension Service, University of Nevada, is program chairman in the State.

NEW MEXICO

In past years farmers growing fruit in Santa Fe County sold their products to individual buyers, obtaining whatever price or amount of goods the buyer would give in exchange. Soon after a Rural Development Committee was organized in the county, early in 1957, its members accepted the job of improving the market situation. Cooperating with local fruit growers, they assembled data on the need for a consolidated fruit market, its cost, and method of organization. New Mexico's College of Agriculture furnished expert advice and assistance in the project. Growers agreed to form a marketing cooperative. This fall a grading and packing shed will go into operation, providing a premium market for good quality fruit. For the first time, Santa Fe producers will have the benefit of an organized, regular market for their fruit.

New Mexico organized a Rural Development Program in August 1955 with formation of an interagency State committee to help coordinate and guide the work. Two pilot counties, Sandoval and Santa Fe, were selected in 1956. Last year (1957-58) the program area was widened to include Bernalillo, McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Taos, Catron, and Valencia counties.

In reporting on the New Mexico program, members of the State committee observe, "Group action as a result of the program is good and interest is high. Local people have taken a keen interest and are giving a great deal of their time and effort to it."

Some important projects and long-term plans that are resulting from the Rural Development approach in this State:

--Surveys of human and physical resources, and principal problems.

--An increase in production of certain commercial crops. For example, Bernalillo County's production of lettuce went from 150 to 1000 acres last year.

--Special educational projects to bring about improvements and needed changes in farm production. Credit "forums" have been organized by the Rural Development committee in one county.

--Demonstration communities designated, especially in areas with a large Indian population, to focus agency services and private initiative on improving living conditions in isolated areas.

--Educational planning, including a study of school needs, which led to consolidation of schools in one county and an "education beyond the high

school" promotional campaign.

--Increased conservation farm planning, development of watershed programs, soil surveying, and use of the Conservation Reserve by local farmers. Approximately 1300 *additional* acres were placed in the Conservation Reserve as a result of educational activity of the Bernalillo committee.

--Stepped-up interest in health improvement, including educational meetings, successful promotion of a new health center, and community sanitation. Local health departments have supplied workers for these projects.

New Mexico A. and M. College, through its Cooperative Extension Service and various other departments, is furnishing additional workers, including three area development agents and specialists part-time. Soil Conservation Service has assigned two technicians to the program. Other Federal and State agencies and private organizations are cooperating.

A. E. Triviz, Associate Director, New Mexico A. and M. College Extension Service, is chairman of the program in New Mexico.

NORTH CAROLINA

Nearly 90 percent of the farm families in Anson County sell less than 2500 dollars worth of products a year. One of the ways Rural Development workers in the county are helping raise the income on these small farms is to assist farm women in making dresses and selling them through a local retail outlet. An extension home agent works closely with the farm women on the project, developing styles, selecting materials, and improving their sewing skills. Last year eight women added to the income of their families by producing some 100 dresses for sale in the area. And using the trade name "Ansonettes," Anson County farm wives will soon be marketing clothing through a 46-store retail chain.

Aided by a tradition in the State of rural area self-help to raise levels of living and improve job opportunities, North Carolina's Rural Development Program has shown consistent progress since an interagency committee to guide the program was formed November 4, 1955. Three counties, Anson, Bertie, and Watauga, representing basic farming areas in the State, were named as pilot counties in 1956; but local programs did not become active until early 1957.

Plans and projects resulting from the Rural Development Program in these counties cover a wide field of agricultural, industrial, and community development.

Farming practices and production are being changed. Production of sweet potatoes, melons, poultry, and other products which heretofore had little commercial importance has greatly expanded in the pilot areas. In Watauga County, for example, broiler production went from 1 to 2 million birds last year. Farm and community conservation has been significantly improved through the work of Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to the program, and a special allocation of some 66,000 dollars by the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Extension workers have increased their farm and home development activity among some 400 families in the three counties.

Market outlets are being established. In Bertie County, for example, Rural Development committee members, agency personnel, and local businessmen led a successful drive to raise 40,000 dollars for a new fruit and vegetable market, built last year.

Better health and the economic welfare of older people have an important place in plans of Rural Development committees. Results of a diet survey among Negro children in one county guided workers in devising home demonstration projects. As a result of publicity and meetings in Watauga County, assisted by Social Security Administration personnel, 125 older farm people were qualified for the Old Age and Survivors Insurance program. This meant 65,000 dollars in added income to the county last year.

With the help of State employment and development agencies, local committees have organized several projects to improve job opportunities. Brochures advertising local resources, job placement, improved communication, and handicraft marketing are part of this phase of the program.

Many surveys and studies have accompanied the development of these projects. Locally-directed resource surveys, as well as special Agricultural Research Service-Experiment Station projects, have a significant place in the North Carolina program.

North Carolina State University, through its Cooperative Extension Service and other departments, is furnishing additional personnel, including a State coordinator, 10 full-time extension workers, and specialists on a part-time basis. All farm and non-farm agencies represented on the State Rural Development committee and many private groups and companies have contributed personnel, funds and services.

D. S. Weaver, Director of the Extension Service, North Carolina State College, is program chairman.

OHIO

With the Rural Development agent acting as editor, all farm agencies and organizations in Monroe County supplied information for a "Farmers Handbook on Practices and Services," printed locally and distributed to all farm people in the county. The handbook tells local farmers about practices best suited to local conditions and where to look for assistance. In the words of the Monroe Rural Development Committee, "It is the hope and desire through this handbook to bring to every Monroe County farmer, full or part-time, the opportunities available..." A good example of interagency cooperation and better use of services through Rural Development.

An interagency committee, including farm and religious organizations, was established to guide the Ohio Rural Development Program in late 1955. The committee named one pilot county, Monroe, with an already established development group, in 1955 and a second county, Guernsey, in 1956. Both are located in the southeastern part of Ohio and have considerable part-time farming.

In his report for 1957-58, the chairman of the State Rural Development Committee observes, "... the program has been well received by the people in the counties...what has been done in the two demonstration counties is beginning to have a positive effect in others."

In brief, Rural Development in Ohio is designed to help rural communities undergoing rapid transition from an agricultural to a mixed agricultural-industrial economy make adjustments effectively in order to gain long-term economic stability.

In Monroe County, a formerly all-rural community where a multi-million dollar aluminum plant is being built, local church, farm, business, and other leaders have joined with agency workers to formulate plans for orderly development. Extensive tree planting on the steep hillside farms is promoted through meetings and youth projects, with the aid of forestry and conservation workers. Farmers are being assisted in changing production to meet off-farm work schedules. Through publicity, community meetings, and fact-finding, the Rural Development committee has encouraged rural zoning, a pressing need in the county.

Guernsey County's development program has drawn closer together the many rural and city groups working in the county to solve economic and social problems. The extension development agent acts as an informal liaison person to help coordinate the different programs. Muskingum College, a local private institution, has set up an adult education service in cooperation with the Rural Development committee. As a result of a study of dairy

practices in the county, the farm and home extension program is emphasizing a more efficient dairy production and management. Educational work with young people includes "away-from-home" visits to familiarize them with the area and its economy and their opportunities in local enterprises. Rural Development committee members have taken the lead in this project.

All Federal and State agencies and many private organizations have contributed to Ohio's Rural Development effort. Ohio State University, through its College of Agriculture and Extension Service, is furnishing development agents in each pilot county and a program coordinator. Soil Conservation Service has assigned workers to the program. Farmers Home Administration increased its credit operations in one county, as a result of farmer interest in projects encouraged by the Rural Development committee. The Agricultural Marketing Service is cooperating in research on the impact of industry in rural areas.

W. B. Wood, Director of the Extension Service, Ohio State University, is chairman of the program.

OKLAHOMA

The Rural Development Program in Latimer County, a mountainous eastern Oklahoma county with many isolated rural communities, is being put into action mainly through adult education in organized community clubs. Since January 1958, the number of these rural neighborhoods organized for self improvement has more than tripled. Development program workers and citizen leaders guiding the county program meet regularly with people in the communities, helping them reach the goals in farming and homemaking they themselves have decided upon.

All of this State's pilot counties -- Cherokee, Choctaw, and Latimer -- are located in the eastern farming area which has mostly small farms and a growing number of farmers working part-time in industry.

An interagency "Agricultural and Industrial Committee" was formed in August 1956 to select demonstration counties and help guide the work in Oklahoma; a smaller steering group, farm agencies plus the Oklahoma Employment Office and Department of Commerce and Industry, provides continuing area-wide coordination.

Some highlights of the program in this State:

--Research by Oklahoma State University cooperating with local leaders and other agencies to formulate a long-range resource development program for the entire eastern low-income area.

--In the pilot counties, agricultural and family living improvement has resulted from stepped-up farm and home unit planning (some 350 families were added to this program in one county for example); community organizations; advice and assistance by development workers regarding home garden improvement and preparation of surplus foods; more credit availability through Farmers Home Administration and other agencies.

--Soil Conservation Service is working with extension development agents and vo-ag teachers in soil mapping, drainage and farm planning, and the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee last year agreed, through Agricultural Conservation Program, to provide 80 percent of the cost of establishing Bermuda Grass, which will accelerate pasture improvement in the three counties.

--Rural industry promotion, vocational guidance, and industrial training for young people are also principal activities of local Rural Development committees.

According to a report of the State committee, personnel of the Small Business Administration and the Oklahoma Health Department as well as agencies cited above "have been used repeatedly" in carrying out various phases of Rural Development. Oklahoma State University provides nine full-time workers for the program as well as other technical assistance.

Dr. A. E. Darlow, Dean of Agriculture, Oklahoma State University, is chairman of the general development committee in Oklahoma.

OREGON

Forest management on small holdings and more efficient forest industries are the core of Rural Development in Lincoln County, where 76 percent of the manufacturing jobs are in lumbering, pulp, paper, and other wood industries. Soil Conservation Service and extension staffs recently agreed on a cooperative plan to stimulate better forest management on Lincoln County farms. Each cooperating farm operator receives advice and assistance in working out a 15-year farm forest plan, including reforestation, thinning, pruning, and harvest. The plan will mean added income to Lincoln's farm families in years to come.

The Rural Development Program in Oregon is a relatively new activity. An interagency State committee was formed late in August 1957; work started in the pilot county, Lincoln, early in November of the same year.

Since inception of the program, the 13-person Lincoln County Rural Development Committee of farm and business leaders and agency representa-

tives has worked to help farm families on small farms obtain a better understanding of the need for new practices and crops, better forestry management and marketing to meet the demands of a changing economy. Farm and home planning has been expanded. A cooperative forest management plan already referred to was worked out. New crops, such as holly and artichokes, able to compete in the California market are being grown on a pilot basis.

A county-wide economic base study of resources, with all agencies cooperating, is now in the planning stage.

The Cooperative Extension Service of Oregon State College, Soil Conservation Service, and Farmers Home Administration have all stepped up their work in the county. Extension is furnishing a full-time development agent. Local businessmen and chambers of commerce are active in the program. Several State non-farm agencies, such as the State Employment Service and Forest Service, assisted with advice and research aid.

J. R. Beck, Assistant Director, Oregon Extension Service, is chairman of the program.

PENNSYLVANIA

Leaders in 14 Fayette County rural communities have taken the initiative in organizing a drive for community improvement and better living on small farms in the area. Marketing outlets for farmers, farm building improvement, and recreation facilities attractive to tourists from nearby cities are all initial projects in Fayette County's community program, an important feature of Rural Development in the county.

Two pilot counties -- Fayette and Schuylkill -- are participating in the Pennsylvania program, under general guidance of an interagency committee representing farm, commercial, and government interests. Fayette County was designated late in 1955, Schuylkill, in August 1957.

A western Pennsylvania county in the bituminous coal area, Fayette has many small farms, most of whose operators work in mining and other industrial enterprises.

A small committee representing farm and business groups has responsibility for the Rural Development Program in the county. The committee helps coordinate the work of service, civic, and business agencies in the county concerned with long-term economic development, and at the same time is assisted in reaching its objectives by these same agencies. Organize rural communities working closely with county program leaders are th

principal method of carrying the Rural Development concept to the farming areas.

In Schuylkill County, representing the eastern anthracite coal area, the program only recently started with formation of a committee of farmers, business, and other leaders. One initial objective of the group is to tie together the many town programs of industrial development now active in the county, and occasionally competing for available industry.

Pennsylvania State University, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, provides personnel and technical assistance in both the action and research phase of the pilot programs. State and Federal agencies cooperate as needed. Private organizations, such as chambers of commerce, farm organizations, and others have helped organize work in the counties.

Dr. Lyman E. Jackson, Dean of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State University is present chairman of the program.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sub-standard housing among many rural people in Bamberg County has long been a serious problem. After a study of the situation, including discussion with extension and health workers and on-the-farm interviews, the Bamberg Rural Development Committee put into operation a long-range plan to improve rural housing all over the county. The committee sponsored a widely-publicized home improvement contest. Thirty local businessmen contributed to a prize fund; others paid for newspaper advertising. Liberalized Farmers Home Administration housing loans helped some contestants finance necessary improvements to qualify in the contest, which has stimulated wide interest among both farm and town people in the county. It's a good example of coordinating many services and programs to gain a much-needed objective.

Organized in January 1956, South Carolina's State Rural Development Committee selected three pilot counties to begin the work in August of the same year. Each of the counties represents a different area in the State, with different soil and physical characteristics and land use problems. They include Bamberg, Berkeley, and Chesterfield Counties.

Objectives of the program in South Carolina, as set forth by the State committee are: "1. Providing intensive on-the-farm educational help to improve farm and home management, develop markets, and ultimately raise the standard of living of the low-income farm families; 2. Obtaining new industries and expanding job opportunities for underemployed farm people; 3. Providing improved health, education, family welfare and community facilities."

In line with these aims, here are some of the activities carried forward in the demonstration counties during the past year by local leaders and agency workers:

--Several rural communities with many small farms were selected for special programs to improve farm practices and the rural environment in general. The impact of farm and home planning has been widened; in one county, for example, some 400 families were contacted regarding this program.

--Production of vegetables, poultry, and swine for commercial markets expanded. In Chesterfield County, poultry and eggs became a major business in the last 18 months, the number of layers growing from 8,000 to 100,000.

--SCS and extension workers are pushing conservation farm plans on as many small farms as possible; in one county 66 such plans have been drawn up since the Rural Development Program started. County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees made adjustments in Agricultural Conservation Program cost sharing to encourage more conservation on small farms.

--Resource and manpower studies in the pilot counties helped businessmen and program leaders with their industry promotion. Berkeley County's development committee, working with businessmen, helped establish several small industries, which brought 200 new jobs to the county last year.

Many private organizations and government agencies are working together in the State's Rural Development Program. Clemson Agricultural College, through its Cooperative Extension Service and other departments, is furnishing added personnel, including nine workers in the counties and specialists part-time. Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, Highway and Health Departments are some other agencies active in the program. Local development boards, farm organizations, news media, co-ops, businessmen and others are providing leadership and resources.

George B. Nutt, Director of Extension, Clemson College, is chairman of the program in South Carolina.

TENNESSEE

Construction started last year on a 200,000-dollar vacation center in Houston County, a rural county in the northwestern part of Tennessee. When completed, the new resort will include cabins, a golf course, club house, swimming pool and riding range. Although outside investors are financing the project, leaders in Houston County attribute their interest in the county as a vacation site to publicity material and other information assembled and published by the Rural Development Committee.

Five pilot counties, in representative rural areas of the State, are taking part in Tennessee's Rural Development Program: Hardin, Macon and Grainger, selected in 1955; Houston and Marion, in 1956. A State committee representing 17 agencies and organizations coordinates the work.

Many surveys have been completed in connection with the State's Rural Development Program: Marketing, manpower, physical resources, forest industries, health and education are some of the subjects covered in this research, to which many agencies and organizations contributed.

Tennessee, of course, has taken long strides in the field of area economic development in recent years. The Rural Development Program, under leadership of local farmers, businessmen, and others, has been tied in with many standing programs and projects at the county level. To cite only the most important activities:

Agricultural improvement: Vegetable production for commercial sale was again expanded in 1957-58. Output of some crops on small farms, such as tomatoes and pimento peppers, went up 200 percent since the program started. And marketing assistance was stepped up to help farmers sell these new crops. Dairy farming received more emphasis through newly organized artificial breeding associations, stock purchase, and grassland farming demonstrations.

Conservation: Soil maps were completed covering some 66,000 acres in two pilot counties by Soil Conservation Service technicians working with the Rural Development Program. Reforestation -- 232,000 pine seedlings planted in one county -- is also an important project in all counties. In Macon County, program leaders obtained farmer approval for a small watershed.

Youth: Rural Development leaders promoted high school career days to get young people interested in continuing their education. Several industrial skills training courses have been started in county high schools, along with vocational guidance programs.

Rural Industries: Small plants manufacturing many different products inaugurated expansion programs during the year. The county seat town in Grainger County started work on a water system, making it more attractive to industry. Existing small plants in Hardin and Houston Counties are expanding operations. Rural Development committees have taken the lead in publishing industry brochures, contacting businesses, and promoting re-training programs for rural people.

The University of Tennessee, through its College of Agriculture and

Cooperative Extensive Service, has assigned development agents in the pilot counties and specialists for individual projects. Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority, State Departments of Health, Vocational Education, Employment Security, Forestry, and Library Service have all made a special contribution to the program. Many local private individuals and groups devote time, resources and skills.

Maynard M. Reed, Chief, Program Operations, Farmers Home Administration, is present chairman of the Tennessee program.

TEXAS

Shelby County's Rural Development Committee, representing rural communities in the county and farm and business groups, gave high priority to establishing better vegetable marketing facilities as an initial project in their program. Agencies working with farmers and community leaders assembled information on the county's potential vegetable production. Local news media publicized the project throughout the county. On the basis of interest among farmers in vegetable production and land and labor available, as shown by the committee survey, two local chambers of commerce raised money to build marketing sheds and manage the market. Agricultural agencies issued cooperatively a growers' guide for the use of new producers. This year many families on small farms in the county will realize \$100 to \$200 additional income as a result of the project.

Texas Rural Development Committee selected one demonstration county, Cherokee, in September 1955 and two multi-county areas, Shelby-San Augustine and Camp-Franklin-Titus, in August 1956 to initiate the program in the State. These counties are located in the northeastern area where considerable research is also under way regarding needs of underemployed rural people.

In order to strengthen resource development work in the entire 41-county area,* the State committee last year approved assignment of two extension development agents to assist local groups in organizing programs.

Rural community organization and improvement are an important feature of the Texas program in most pilot counties. In their annual report for 1957-58, the State Rural Development committee observes, "Organized community work is a valuable phase of the program (in Cherokee County). Most of the outstanding achievements during the past year were dependent upon this, for example, the Cherokee County health program, community recreational programs, social security, rabies and rodent control, and improved agricultural and home practices."

*Lamar, Red River, Bowie, Delta, Hopkins, Franklin, Camp, Titus, Morris, Cass, Rains, Wood, Upshur, Marion, Harrison, Gregg, Smith, Van Zandt, Henderson, Rusk, Panola, Cherokee, Anderson, Freestone, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Nacogdoches, Shelby, San Augustine, Sabine, Newton, Jasper, Tyler, Angelina, Trinity, Polk, San Jacinto, Walker, Montgomery, Madison.

In agricultural development, pilot county leaders and agency workers helped farm families make the transition from row crop farming to production of commercial vegetables, livestock, and poultry. New market outlets were established in several counties. Reforestation and pasture improvement are a direct result of program educational work in several counties; forest plantings have taken place on an estimated 2,000 additional acres.

Labor and physical resource surveys, industry promotion through advertising and personal contact, newly-formed industrial development groups, marketing enterprises and added rural industries are some other activities in which Texas Rural Development Program leaders assisted.

Texas A. and M. College System, through its Cooperative Extension Service and other departments, assigned eight full-time workers to the program, as well as specialists on an individual project basis. Other agencies, including Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, the State Vocational Education and Forestry Departments, have contributed personnel for technical assistance. U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare named a member of its regional office to help coordinate Rural Development Program activities of State agencies with which the department has grant-in-aid programs.

W. N. Williamson, Assistant Director of Extension, Texas A. and M. College System, is chairman of the program.

VIRGINIA

Members of the Cumberland County Rural Development Committee concerned with educational improvement in the county have taken steps to assemble accurate, up-to-date information on school needs and help local communities find practical methods of improving their schools. Last year the committee issued recommendations for consolidating several of the county's one and two-room rural schools, reorganizing school administration and making savings in the school bus system. In cooperation with teachers and school administrators, members of the committee reviewed the high school curriculum and athletic program, with the aim of improving the training and college preparation of young people. A fund-raising drive, sponsored by the county development group, raised money to outfit a school football team and furnish equipment for the athletic department.

Carroll and Cumberland Counties were designated as pilot counties by the Virginia Rural Development Committee in April 1956; planning committees of local leaders were organized to direct the program at that time.

Emphasis in the Virginia program to date has been on research and educational activities that would help people in the towns and rural areas concerned obtain an accurate picture of economic conditions, long-range trends, and opportunities for improving levels of living.

In one county, Cumberland, for example, Rural Development committee members, with assistance from the extension service, other agencies, and a local power and light company, assembled data on natural resources, manpower, industrial sites, agricultural potential, etc. The company financed printing and publication of the study. Widely publicized in the area, the study is serving as a basis for discussion and long-range planning among farm, business, government, and other leaders.

Joining with representatives of another county and a local marketing center, members of the Carroll County Rural Development group surveyed industrial sites in the general area, agricultural marketing, manpower skills, and other factors in a development program. Soil Conservation Service is completing a soil survey in the county, at the request of the board of supervisors.

Commenting on these projects, a member of the Virginia Rural Development Committee states, "People (in the pilot counties) are much better informed as to the actual situation and have a sounder basis on which to proceed."

Some other projects in the State's Rural Development Program: Fruit marketing improvement, forest management demonstration plots, industrial site development, educational improvement, extension assistance for "live-at-home" programs on small farms (250 families are participating in Cumberland County), rural community sanitation.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute, through its College of Agriculture and Extension Service, is providing a full-time development agent in each pilot county. Agencies represented on the State committee have supported research and educational work in the counties. Many private groups, such as chambers of commerce and power companies, supplied funds and personnel for program development.

W. H. Daughtrey, Associate Extension Director, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, is chairman of the program.

WASHINGTON

Four new industries went into operation last year in Washington's Stevens County, a rural county in the northeast part of the State. They employ some 100 full-time workers, and will also result in added business for local firms servicing the new plants. Two of these firms, a small wood products manufacturing company and an industry manufacturing clothes pressing equipment, received important assistance from the Rural Development steering committee in the county. Committee members helped the manufacturers obtain plant sites, skilled workers, and credit assistance. A fine example of industry promotion through the Rural Development Program.

An organized Rural Development Program was started in Stevens County, Washington, in September 1957, with an agreement between the Extension Service (State College of Washington) and the county commissioners. Previously Stevens County was selected as a pilot county by the State advisory committee, representing government agencies and private groups such as the Farm Bureau, State Grange, and Federation of Women's Clubs.

The program in Stevens County, as in most other pilot areas, includes (1) research on economic and social conditions and trends, (2) community education, and (3) project development.

In 1957-58 the county extension staff, State Employment Security Agency, and Department of Rural Sociology, State College cooperated in an "agriculture-human resources" survey, one objective of which, according to county leaders, was to "provide information about the economic and social situation of the people, their needs, aspirations, and attitudes." Ten percent of the population, farmers and non-farmers, were interviewed in the comprehensive county study.

The Rural Development committee, chambers of commerce and Grange sponsored an "evaluation day," playing host to people in the county who met to discuss long-term economic development and agricultural industrial improvement. One member of the committee states, "people in the area have taken a more positive outlook toward planning for community development...the philosophy of 'helping ourselves by cooperative planning' has become more popular."

Recreational and educational needs of young people, tourist industry promotion, reforestation, animal agriculture on small farms, construction of new farm markets, rural industries are some of the areas in which the Rural Development Committee is working, assisted by agency personnel.

The State College of Washington, through its Institute of Agricultural

Sciences, is furnishing additional workers for the program, including two development agents and specialists, part-time. Agencies and private organizations represented on the committee are also contributing to the Stevens County program.

L. L. Madsen, Director, Institute of Agriculture, State College of Washington, is chairman of the Washington Advisory Committee on Rural Development.

WEST VIRGINIA

Gaining the attention and interest of local people so they will support a development program is a primary objective in any pilot county or area. The area development agent in West Virginia's Fayette-Summers-Raleigh Rural Development area last year initiated a publicity campaign, utilizing local newspapers, radio stations and other media, to sell the idea of a balanced program of area improvement. Several local radio stations regularly broadcast news of the program. Some 79 stories appeared in county newspapers. A local TV station also featured the Rural Development story on several occasions.

West Virginia was one of the first States where a pilot area was designated, a local program committee organized, and a development agent assigned, early in 1956. There are now two separate area programs under way, including Lewis, Braxton, Upshur, and Gilmer Counties in the north central area; Fayette, Summers, and Raleigh Counties, in the south.

In agricultural development, the West Virginia program has encouraged expanded sheep, poultry, and vegetable production. In the Lewis area, for example, some 1400 western ewes were purchased by farmers since the program started. Truck crops were planted in several of the State's pilot counties on a demonstration basis. Twenty-five Braxton County farmers, for example, planted 25 acres of commercial vegetables for the first time. Extension agents and vocational agricultural teachers provide continuing production and marketing assistance in these projects.

Adult classes in farm practices improvement were established on a regular basis in three communities.

Development program leaders encouraged and assisted some 12 rural communities in the pilot area to organize for participation in the State-wide community improvement contest, which includes better farming and rural community living.

Agricultural Research Service and West Virginia University cooperated in an area-wide labor and family survey in the four-county southern Rural

Development area. More than 900 farm and non-farm families were interviewed as to income, employment, and skills.

Several forestry and conservation projects are reported as a result of Rural Development. Soil Conservation Service, state foresters, and extension agents cooperated in setting up a forest management demonstration area. The State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee agreed to increased Agricultural Conservation Program conservation cost-sharing which will encourage pasture improvement in the pilot areas. Upshur County started commercial Christmas tree farming, with 50,000 young trees planted last year. The Rural Development committee in this county also spearheaded successful promotion of a small watershed project.

West Virginia University is providing area development agents for the Rural Development Program and specialists, as required. Many agencies are contributing to the program, including Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees, and various State agencies such as Vocational Education, Forestry, and Employment Security.

J. O. Knapp, Extension Director, University of West Virginia, is chairman of the interagency State Rural Development Committee.

WISCONSIN

People in Sawyer County have launched a major lake and stream improvement program, which will strengthen soil and water conservation and increase recreation opportunities in the county. The project includes enlargement of six small lakes, and one stream clearance and improvement. Towns and communities are cooperating by taking responsibility for the project, with "work committees" of local people doing much of the actual construction. The Sawyer County Rural Development Committee, with aid from the extension service, is coordinating and promoting this project, county-wide.

A Resource Development Program (official name for the program in this State) got under way in Price County in February 1956, soon after its designation as a pilot county by the interagency Wisconsin Development Committee. The Sawyer County program started in April 1957.

Members of the Sawyer County Development Committee describe their approach as an "overall rural, industrial, and recreational development program."

Leaders in Price County, with the help of University of Wisconsin re-

searchers and local agencies, completed last year a series of studies which will furnish information useful in long-range planning. Published studies include "Service (Agency) Orientation of Open-country People in Price County", "Changing Role of Agriculture in Price County", "A Survey of Child Welfare Services."

Industrial, tourist and recreation expansion plans are an important part of rural resources development in both of Wisconsin's pilot counties. A hardboard manufacturing plant, assisted by a Small Business Administration loan, will go into operation this fall in Price County with some 60 new employees. Committee members and the county agent at large in this county encouraged expansion of several other small rural industries and formation of two local industry development corporations. Mink farming for the fur trade is big business in Sawyer County. Extension workers are assisting owners of mink ranches to form cooperatives, obtain financing, and otherwise strengthen their operations.

In view of favorable local markets, poultry, including the hatching egg business and turkey production, is receiving attention as a practical alternative for small farms. The development agent in Price County met with poultry specialists and commercial representatives and held many educational meetings among farmers to open the way for expansion of the industry.

Regular programs of forestry management and conservation also received added impetus through the work of county development committees, assisted by agency personnel working in Rural Development.

In Price County, for example, farmers not participating in the conservation cost-sharing program were contacted as to their reasons for not taking advantage of the program. Soil Conservation Service assigned technicians to the Rural Development Program in Price County, with the result that some 12,000 additional acres of farmland have been mapped during the past year. At the urging of Rural Development leaders, the committee managing county-owned forests agreed to changes in their sales policy which stepped up timber handling jobs. Extension workers in Sawyer are giving intensive aid to 35 cooperating farmers in management of their small woodlots.

The University of Wisconsin, through its College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service, provides personnel for the program, including development agents in each of the demonstration counties and specialists as needed. Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, vocational agriculture teachers, forestry, labor, area development, health and welfare agencies, and a private college (Northland College) contributed services and technical aid. Rural electric co-ops, businessmen, and chambers of commerce are also supporting the Rural Development Program.

Henry L. Ahlgren, Associate Director, University of Wisconsin Extension Service, is chairman of the program.

PUERTO RICO

In February 1957 the interagency Puerto Rico Committee for Rural Development selected the trading area of Cedro Arriba, comprising parts of four districts, as a pilot area in the island's newly established program. Development committees were set up in the area and workers assigned in September 1957. The Puerto Rico Agricultural Extension Service, Water Resources Authority, Farmers Home Administration, and Soil Conservation Service have assigned a total of 10 workers to the program.

Extensive economic surveys are being conducted in the Cedro Arriba area, covering family living conditions on small farms. A search has been made for property deeds, important in credit and other business transactions involving small farmers.

Vegetable production, poultry and swine operations are being emphasized in the program to keep pace of improved market facilities. One canning and sewing center for farm housewives was set up.

Soil Conservation Service technicians are completing soil maps on small farms. Some 16,000 forest trees were planted for coffee shade on an estimated 40 acres. Under guidance of program leaders and workers, six aqueducts were built in the area last year, using local volunteer labor. These structures will considerably improve irrigation and home water supplies.

Road construction, community sanitation, and market development are other principal projects undertaken during the first year of the Cedro Arriba program.

Church leaders in the area support the program, and many have contributed leadership and church facilities to the work. For example, church halls have been used to hold meetings of local leaders and others to discuss aims and organization of a Rural Development Program. One of the local churches organized a community center and a "school for community leaders."

Commenting on the area approach to Rural Development utilized in Puerto Rico, one member of the committee states, "Around 1500 small farmers live close together with similar problems, all equally disadvantaged. The section is a trading area around a rural market. None of the sections of the area could be adequately developed unless resources of the total area are pooled together."

Roberto Huyke, Extension Director, University of Puerto Rico, is chairman of the program.

SUPPLEMENT II

Federal and State agencies contributing personnel, technical, and other services to the Rural Development Program in some or all of the participating States:

Agricultural Experiment Stations (of Colleges of Agriculture): Research personnel assisting with surveys, studies in most pilot counties.

Agricultural Research Service: Cooperating with 15 State experiment stations in economic studies of resources available and possible adjustments in underdeveloped areas encompassing pilot counties.

Agricultural Marketing Service: Cooperating with 14 State experiment stations in research on farm family living, related studies; preparing aids regarding industrial, marketing aspects of the program.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees: Increased amount of funds available for on-farm Agricultural Conservation Program conservation payments or made other adjustments in pilot counties in at least six States.

Cooperative Extension Services: Using a special Federal allocation, assigned associate agents or specialists to State, county programs.

Education Departments: State and local agencies assisting in special Rural Development Projects to improve education in most program States.

Employment Security Agencies: Assisting in manpower studies, job testing, and guidance projects in selected pilot counties.

Farmers Home Administration: Expanded services available in 7 pilot counties; personnel act as credit advisers to Rural Development committees in all counties.

Federal Extension Service: Administers allocation of Federal funds for extension activity in the program; provides continuing technical assistance to States in program organization.

Forest Services (State and Federal): Technical assistance in improved forest management, research, marketing of forest products. State agencies in 30 States assigned full-time workers to assist in this phase of the program.

Health Departments: 13 States report special health improvement projects in pilot counties assisted by State and local health departments.

Industrial (Area) Development Agencies: Assisting county committees to evaluate, promote resources attracting industry.

Office of Area Development (U. S. Department of Commerce): Providing technical materials, advisory services at national level; field offices of the Department have furnished personnel for counseling in State programs.

Office of the Secretary (U. S. Department of Agriculture): Provides a coordinator to assist private groups, State agencies in organizing programs of rural area development.

Small Business Administration: Authorized several loans to small businesses in program counties; provided technical advice in local industry promotion.

Soil Conservation Service: Contributed approximately 58 man-years in 68 counties in 29 states for soil mapping, on-farm conservation planning, watershed development, drainage, and other technical assistance phases of the Rural Development Program.

A complete listing of all Federal agencies represented in the program follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Research Service, Farmers Home Administration, Agricultural Conservation Program Service, Soil Conservation Service, Federal Extension Service, Forest Service, Agricultural Marketing Service, Rural Electrification Administration, Farmer Cooperative Service, Commodity Stabilization Service.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE: Office of Area Development.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: Bureau of Employment Security.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Social Security Administration, Office of Education, Public Health Service.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

COUNSEL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

PUBLICATIONS

During the period covered by this report, a new series of publications was inaugurated by the Department of Agriculture cooperating with other U. S. departments to inform farm, business, civic, and other local leaders and agency workers about important services and programs useful in the development of community resources. The new series, entitled *Rural Resource Leaflets* supplements other publications and releases dealing with the Rural Development Program, including a periodic newsletter, *Rural Development Program News*, sent to all participants and interested groups. The following publications in the new series have been issued. Others are in preparation.

Rural Development Program, Resource Leaflet No. 1, May 1958 (revised)

Forests In Rural Development, No. 2, October 1957

Co-Ops Have A Place In Rural Community Progress, No. 3, May 1958

Using Your Community's Health Resources, No. 5, August 1958

Small Business, A Keystone Of Rural Area Development, No. 6, October 1958

PILOT COUNTIES AND AREAS
(In The Rural Development Program)
1958 - 1959

ALABAMA

Chilton
Fayette

ARKANSAS

Madison
Ouachita
Phillips
Van Buren
Woodruff

FLORIDA

Suwannee
Washington

GEORGIA

Habersham
Meriwether
Twiggs
Wayne

ILLINOIS

Alexander-Pulaski Area

INDIANA

Perry

KENTUCKY

*Butler
*Elliott
*Metcalfe

LOUISIANA

Avoyelles
Franklin
Washington

MAINE

Washington

MARYLAND

Garrett

MICHIGAN

Alger
Delta
Mackinac

MINNESOTA

Carlton
Hubbard
Itasca

MISSISSIPPI

Amite
Covington
Holmes
Tippah

MISSOURI

Dent
Douglas
Taney

TANEY

Lake
Ravalli

NEBRASKA

Sherman

NEVADA

Lincoln

NEW MEXICO

Sandoval
Santa Fe

NORTH CAROLINA

Anson
Bertie
Watauga

OHIO

Guernsey
Monroe

OKLAHOMA

Cherokee
Choctaw
Latimer

OREGON

Lincoln

PENNSYLVANIA

Fayette
Schuylkill

SOUTH CAROLINA

Berkeley
Chesterfield
Bamberg

TENNESSEE

Grainger
Hardin
Houston
Macon
Marion

TEXAS

Camp-Franklin-Titus
Area
Cherokee
Shelby-San Augustine
Area

VIRGINIA

Carroll
Cumberland

WASHINGTON

Stevens

WEST VIRGINIA

*Lewis
*Raleigh

WISCONSIN

Price
Sawyer

PUERTO RICO

Cedro Arriba Area

30 States & Puerto Rico participating
63 Counties
8 Areas plus one in Puerto Rico

*Area Center